

diabetes and hypertension are on the rise, and more children today are at risk of heart disease, cancer, and stroke. It has been estimated that one out of three males, and two out of five females born in the year 2000 will eventually suffer from type two diabetes.

The obesity epidemic hits some communities harder than others, greatly impacting our more vulnerable communities. Studies have shown that these children are more likely to suffer from obesity and the related health problems. Low income areas have far fewer parks and sidewalks than wealthier communities, and children from these neighborhoods have less opportunity to play ball, ride bikes, or run outside. Children who live in lower income neighborhoods also have less access to fresh produce and healthy foods. Children living in food deserts are not able to consume healthier foods as often as they should, relying more on processed and high calorie foods for their meals.

Mr. Speaker, it is essential that this Congress work to improve access to healthy food for all Americans. We need to teach our young healthy eating habits, promote physical activity, and increase access to fresh foods by encouraging supermarkets to open in the urban core, and embracing farmers markets and urban farming. Obesity is a costly epidemic. Not only does it drastically increase health care spending, totaling fourteen billion dollars a year, but it greatly reduces the health and prosperity of our children. I would also like to commend the hard work being done by Children's Mercy Hospital in bringing awareness to this issue. I urge my colleagues to stand with me in support of Childhood Obesity Awareness Month.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Economic Growth and Reducing Unemployment Act, to address perhaps the two greatest workforce tragedies resulting from today's economy—our long-term unemployed and our unemployed young people—and to spur economic growth. Since Republicans took control of the House of Representatives, many Democrats have tried to get them to shift from their one-sided, cuts-only fiscal policy to taking some steps to more quickly reduce stubborn unemployment throughout the country. Republican austerity policies, as predicted by history and Economics 101, have driven the economy into another ditch, with the possibility of a double-dip recession. We need to reduce the country's budget deficit and debt in the long term, but as virtually every economist and the Federal Reserve chair himself have said, we must also create jobs and stimulate the economy now, before it is too late. While 14 million Americans are unemployed, my bill targets those particularly hard hit by unemployment. In August 2011, the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was six million, which accounted for 42.9 percent of the total unemployed population. In

July 2011, the number of unemployed youth 16 to 24 years old was 4.1 million.

To make matters even worse, the unemployed now face employment discrimination and employers are reluctant to hire the long-term unemployed because of the length of their unemployment. My bill would give employers a \$5,000 tax credit against their payroll tax liability for each (net) new long-term unemployed person they hire. The tax credit is large enough to give employers an incentive to increase hiring and wages, which would inject demand into the economy. The credit would be available to the broadest base of employers because every employer—government, non-profit and for-profit—pays payroll taxes, and employers could claim the credit on a quarterly rather than annual basis. According to the independent, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the proposal would “increase both output and employment,” through four mechanisms: (1) with lower employment costs, employers would reduce the costs of their products and services, which, in turn, would first boost sales and then hiring and hours worked; (2) employers would pass on some of the tax savings to employees in the form of higher wages or other compensation, which, in turn, would increase employees' purchasing power; (3) higher profits would lead to higher stock prices for public companies, increasing shareholders' wealth and therefore their willingness to spend; and (4) with lower employment costs, employers would increase hiring. The bill has safeguards to prevent employers from gaming the system, including denying a credit to an employer that fires one employee and hires a replacement.

Particularly disappointing as well is the high unemployment rate for young people who heeded our advice to graduate from high school and college, only to try to enter the workforce in the worst economy in generations. By significantly expanding AmeriCorps, my bill, without needing a new administrative structure or bureaucracy, would allow unemployed young people to earn a stipend sufficient to support themselves and to obtain work experience and a good work history to help them obtain future employment. The net cost of the expansion would be low, because these young people would be providing urgently needed local services that are being dropped or curtailed because of federal, state, and local budget cuts, such as after-school programs, tutoring, and assistance for the elderly.

The bill would significantly expand job opportunities for young people who have played by the rules but find themselves unemployed in this economy. The bill would increase the number of participants in the AmeriCorps State and National program from approximately 78,000 to 500,000 full-time participants. Participants receive a living allowance, which most find sufficient to meet their basic needs, and are also eligible for an education award equal to the value of a Pell grant, for school loan forbearance, health care benefits and child care assistance. By expanding the program, we would reduce the number of unemployed young people, provide them with the work skills and experience they would not get while unemployed, and help cash-strapped states and local governments provide services that they would otherwise have to cut.

For some time, it has been clear that policies to address today's unusually stubborn unemployment need to be targeted in order to be

effective. The long-term unemployed and unemployed young people are the two groups that have been hardest to reach in prior measures. Without significant targeting, the long-term unemployed are in danger of becoming permanently unemployed and young graduates will face their first years as adults without jobs and with no way to acquire work experience. Both groups deserve better. I ask the House of Representatives to support this bill because it targets both of these neglected groups of Americans.

RECOGNIZING CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of my full commitment and support of the values of equality, respect, and freedom fortified within the creation of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Today is a day set aside to recognize the importance the Constitution has provided throughout its evolution to the continued principles of democracy our Founding Fathers championed.

I would like to highlight both the 13th and 15th Amendments for the equality each ensures to American minorities.

The 13th Amendment abolished slavery and started a revolution of social progress for blacks subject to slavery, and also for women and laborers.

The 15th Amendment ensures the right to vote to all citizens, regardless of one's race, color, or previous condition of servitude. I personally respect the struggle that ensued after this Amendment was ratified. It took until the 1965 Voting Right Act until this right was protected with vigorous enforcement—a vote I remember voting for passage as a newly elected Representative of the United States Congress.

These two Amendments perhaps best show the injustices that can be righted by Congress and the Nation when we recognize that we are a united people of equal bearing who are each entitled to equality under the Constitution and the help of our brethren.

HERBERT F. KOETHER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Herbert F. Koether for his service to the state of Colorado, his active pursuit of conservative ideals, and his love for serving others.

Before World War II, Mr. Koether served on the war production board in Washington, D.C., later joining the United States Air Force and attaining the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

In 1952, Mr. Koether arrived in Denver, Colorado, actively working in the Colorado political arena for conservative causes. During Senator Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential campaign, Mr. Koether served as the chair of the Colorado Goldwater effort, tirelessly promoting the ideals Senator Goldwater represented. In 1989, he also helped Gale Norton

run her campaign for Colorado's Attorney General.

Mr. Koether not only worked on campaigns and in politics, he also devoted himself to public service in the Denver area, offering his services to various public boards to better the lives of Coloradans. In addition to serving on the Kent Denver school boards, Mr. Koether spent 54 years of his life on the advisory board of the Salvation Army.

Mr. Koether passed away on Sept. 16, 2011 among his family members and friends who were coming together to celebrate his 98th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Herbert F. Koether. The ideals he devoted himself to and his life of public service tangibly affected Coloradans and Americans for the better, and he will be greatly missed by us all.

TRIBUTE TO THE 5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago, a prestigious group of soldiers were activated into the 5th Special Forces Group at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Deployed today from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky and serving in regions known and unknown, the men and women of the 5th Special Forces work to gain and secure freedom's cause for the oppressed throughout the world.

The green beret is not the only thing that sets the 5th Special Forces Group apart. Divided into five active duty and two Army National Guard groups, the Special Forces are an integral part of the United States Army and her missions throughout the world. From Vietnam to Afghanistan, these honored soldiers continue to carry out the legacy of excellence, victory, and fidelity to the contract of democracy. Outfitted with the best and the brightest the Armed Forces has to offer, the 5th Special Forces Group celebrates 50 years of special operations as one of the most decorated and well-known Army units.

We owe much of our freedom to those who, like the 5th Special Forces, dedicate their lives to the tenets of this mighty country. With unequalled speed and resolve, they both captured high-profile targets in the Global War on Terror and brought humanity and compassion to areas of the world struggling under humanitarian crisis. As the 5th Special Forces Group continues their work to liberate those in the bonds of oppression, I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the mighty work done by the 5th Special Forces and congratulate them as they celebrate 50 years of bringing freedom to the world's darkest places.

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AND THE U.N.

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in objection to the Palestinian Authority's blatant

attempt to circumvent its past agreements and treaties with Israel and seek a unilateral declaration of statehood at the United Nations (UN) later today.

Peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians will not be settled through a resolution at the United Nations. Lasting peace will only be achieved through direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Palestinian Authority's unilateral declaration of statehood directly contradicts UN Resolution 242, which states that the two nations must work together to achieve peace in the region so that both states are secure.

When Resolution 242 was passed, President Johnson stated, "It is clear . . . that a return to the situation of June 4, 1967 will not bring peace. There must be secure and there must be recognized borders. Some such lines must be agreed to by the neighbors involved."

Now is the time for the UN and the Palestinian Authority to heed that advice. The borders should not be dictated to the Israelis; rather, an agreement should be based on direct negotiations between the two states. Recognition in any way by the UN will only embolden the belligerent Palestinians to avoid the negotiating table and circumvent direct negotiations with Israel.

An affirmative vote by the UN Security Council, even with a United States veto, will have dire consequences for years to come. I urge the UN to reject the resolution so that both nations can return to the negotiating table without pre-conditions.

INTRODUCING THE INVESTING INCOME AT HOME ACT OF 2011

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Investing Income at Home Act of 2011, legislation that simplifies the outdated personal holding company ("PHC") tax regime and will help certain closely held companies invest money here at home to create jobs and help our economy recover.

Enacted in 1934, the PHC tax provisions (sections 541–547 of the Internal Revenue Code) are outdated. The goal of the PHC tax when it was originally enacted was to prevent wealthy individuals from avoiding the individual income tax on passive income like interest, dividends and rents by forming corporations to hold these investments.

In the 1930s the corporate tax rate was 13.5 percent and the top individual income tax rate was 63 percent. This 49.5 percent differential between the top corporate and individual tax rate—coupled with the ability to liquidate and distribute appreciated corporate assets without tax consequences—provided an incentive for wealthy individuals to incorporate their portfolio investments. Those incentives have largely vanished under current law. First, the top marginal tax rate for both individuals and corporations is 35%. Second, corporate liquidating distributions of appreciated assets are taxed at the corporate level. Current law provides no incentive to incorporate portfolio investments to escape the individual income tax. The PHC tax is an obsolete tax that should be repealed.

Section 541 of the Internal Revenue Code imposes a corporate level penalty tax of 15% on the undistributed personal holding company income of a PHC. Under current law, this rate is scheduled to return to the highest individual tax rate of 39.6% when the lower dividend tax rate expires in 2011. A corporation constitutes a PHC if 60% of its adjusted gross income is PHC income and if 50% of its stock is owned by five or fewer individual shareholders at any time during the last half of the taxable year. PHC income generally is defined as interest, dividends, royalties, rents, and certain other types of passive investment income.

Furthermore, in the case of a group of corporations filing a consolidated return, the PHC test is generally conducted on the basis of the operations of the consolidated group. However, in certain circumstances the test must be conducted on a separate company basis. When the test is conducted on a separate company basis, a group of corporations filing a consolidated return can easily find that it has a personal holding company tax liability even though a great majority of its revenue is generated from the active conduct of its trade or businesses. The requirement to conduct the PHC tests on a separate company basis often unfairly penalizes corporate groups that are actively engaged in business. A common fact pattern that gives rise to this unwarranted imposition of the PHC tax is where a member of the group receives dividends from controlled foreign subsidiaries. In this case, the separate company PHC tax computation serves as a deterrent to the repatriation and reinvestment of foreign earnings in the United States.

The legislation I am introducing would exclude dividends received from a firm's foreign affiliates and reinvested in the United States from the definition of personal holding company income.

This bill will provide that corporations impacted by the PHC that benefit from the provision would pay the same level of corporate tax as similarly situated publicly traded corporations. This would free them to invest dividends from foreign affiliates into the U.S. economy, helping to create much-needed jobs here in America.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation that will clean up an outdated part of the Tax Code and help to create good jobs in the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONVENIENCE STORES

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS).

Originally founded in 1961, today NACS represents more than 3,700 companies that do business in more than 50 countries worldwide.

The convenience retailing industry in America generates \$575 billion dollars in sales annually, in its more than 146,000-plus stores across the country, and employs 1.6 million